

## Case 3219

***Vilcunia periglacialis* Cei & Scolaro, 1982 (currently *Liolaemus periglacialis*; Reptilia, Sauria): proposed precedence over *Liolaemus hatcheri* Stejneger, 1909**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.9.3 and 81.2.3 of the Code, is to conserve the widely used specific name *Vilcunia periglacialis* Cei & Scolaro, 1982 for a Patagonian tropidurine lizard by giving it conditional precedence over the largely unused senior subjective synonym *Liolaemus hatcheri* Stejneger, 1909.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Reptilia; TROPIDURIDAE; *Liolaemus*; *Liolaemus periglacialis*; *Liolaemus hatcheri*; South America; tropidurine lizards.

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1. Stejneger (1909, p. 218) described a new species of tropidurine lizard (family TROPIDURIDAE) from material collected in Southern Argentina between 1896 and 1899 by J.B. Hatcher and named it *Liolaemus hatcheri*. Stejneger's descriptions of the type locality and distribution of *L. hatcheri* are not reliable. After its initial publication, the name has only appeared in two museum check-lists (see Burt & Burt, 1930, 1933) and in a list of names by Liebermann (1939). None of these constitutes use under Article 23.9.6 of the Code. This nominal species was later erroneously synonymized with *L. magellanicus* (Hombron & Jacquinot, 1847) by Donoso Barros (1970), Peters & Donoso Barros (1970) and Cei (1986).

2. A redescription of the holotype of *L. hatcheri* was made by Etheridge (1998). Etheridge also found specimens of *L. kingii* Stejneger, 1909 (p. 218) and *L. lineomaculatus* Stejneger, 1909 (p. 218), which are species closely related to *L. hatcheri*, mixed in the original jars with the redescribed holotype of *L. hatcheri*. Little or no collection locality or ecological information about *L. hatcheri* is available.

3. A tropidurine lizard from the volcanic region surrounding Belgrano Lake, Santa Cruz, was described by Cei & Scolaro (1982, p. 357) and named as *Vilcunia periglacialis*. In 1995 (p. 20), Etheridge moved this species to the genus *Liolaemus*. The type locality of *L. periglacialis* is Estancia Lago Belgrano, 6–10 km from Belgrano Lake, 1000 m above sea level, Santa Cruz). The species has a wide distribution that corresponds to a mainly volcanic region from latitudes 47° 40' South to 49° South, and longitudes 71° 30' West to 72° 10' West. *L. periglacialis* lives in

rocky areas on sandy ground, is almost herbivorous, with a noticeable tendency to social grouping in winter (see Cei & Scolaro, 1982). Stejneger's reports on type locality and distribution do not coincide with the peculiar biotope found for the species (see Cei, 1986).

4. With the exception of Etheridge (1998), the name *L. hatcheri* has not been used after its original publication. In contrast *L. periglacialis*, in spite of its relatively recent establishment (1982), has been widely used (e.g. Laurent, 1984, 1995; Etheridge, 1986, 1995; Cei, 1986; Vanzolini, 1986; Etheridge & de Queiroz, 1988; Reeder & Wiens, 1996; Shine, 1985; a further 20 usage references have been submitted to the Commission Secretariat). In addition, Etheridge (1998) recorded that *L. hatcheri* is 'probably a senior synonym of *Vilcunia periglacialis* (now named *Liolaemus periglacialis*)'.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to give the name *periglacialis* Cei & Scolaro, 1982, as published in the binomen *Vilcunia periglacialis*, precedence over the name *hatcheri* Stejneger, 1909, as published in the binomen *Liolaemus hatcheri*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *periglacialis* Cei & Scolaro, 1982, as published in the binomen *Vilcunia periglacialis*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *hatcheri* Stejneger, 1909, as published in the combination *Liolaemus hatcheri*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
  - (b) *hatcheri* Stejneger, 1909, as published in the combination *Liolaemus hatcheri*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *periglacialis* Cei & Scolaro, 1982, as published in the binomen *Vilcunia periglacialis*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.

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